

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Castello, Chair
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary
Charles Roggen
Robert Schuon
Blay Tarnoff
Karyn Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Grindle
Christopher Olenski
Richard Purtell
Michael Rebmann

Secretary's note: Keith Redhead resigned during the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

An informal discussion began at 7:13 p.m. since it was determined that quorum was not present.

Daniel Castello read the proposed platform.

Keith Redhead informed Andrew Kolstee that he resigns from the committee at 7:29 p.m.

Charles Roggen entered the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m. by Daniel Castello, Chair. It was determined that quorum was present.

Motion by Karyn Thompson to **adopt the Report of the Platform Committee (Exhibit 1)** was seconded by Robert Schuon and debated. The Statement of Intent was added to the report before the motion was seconded.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 1 (proposed Platform Plank 1) to strike “others, and as such” and insert “others. As such,”** passed without objection.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 5 (proposed Platform Plank 1.5) to strike “as these” and insert “which”** failed due to lack of a second.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 7 (proposed Platform Plank 1.5) to insert a comma after “beliefs”** passed without objection.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 8 (proposed Platform Plank 1.6) to strike “authority” and insert “right”** passed without objection.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 10 (proposed Platform Plank 2.1) to strike “freedom” and insert “right”** passed without objection.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 11 (proposed Platform Plank 2.2) to strike “peacefully gather” and insert “gather peacefully”** passed without objection.

There was a discussion on the usage of “Individuals” to “Every individual” to “Each individual” throughout the platform. There was general agreement to not amend the proposed platform to use a single instance to keep variety and flow within the platform.

Proposal 12 (proposed Platform Plank 2.3) was amended to strike “the” before “terms” without objection.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 12 (proposed Platform Plank 2.3) to strike “This includes the freedom” and insert “This includes the right”** was withdrawn.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 13 (proposed Platform Plank 3) to strike “The preservation and defense of individual rights is paramount to liberty”** was debated and failed due to lack of a second. Charles Roggen suggested moving the sentence to the end of the plank. Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **move the sentence “The preservation and defense of individual rights is paramount to liberty.” to the end of the plank** was seconded by Blay Tarnoff, debated, and passed 4-1.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 13 (proposed Platform Plank 3) to strike “necessary action” and insert “right”** was withdrawn.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 13 (proposed Platform Plank 3) to strike “delegate the necessary action to others” and insert “authorize others to act on their behalf”** passed without objection.

Motion by Blay Tarnoff to **amend Proposal 16 (proposed Platform Plank 3.3) to strike “Furthermore, those delegated the authority to assist shall not be granted immunity and must be held accountable for their actions to the same extent as anyone else” and insert “Furthermore, those delegated such authority shall not have immunity and must be held accountable for their actions, the same as anyone else”** was withdrawn.

Proposal 22 (proposed Platform Plank 5) as follows was amended with struck out text as indicated in orange and inserted text as indicated in purple passed without objection.

5. Preserving Liberty. Government will inevitably grow more tyrannical if left unchecked. ~~To preserve liberty, It is the responsibility of citizens to actively restrain the government, its powers, and its agents must be strictly limited. Only the active involvement of responsible citizens can restrain the government, and prevent it~~ from perverting the rights of the people. It is essential for citizens to be vigilant ~~and adhere to the forgoing principles to preserve liberty and in defense of actively defend~~ their freedom and sovereignty.

The original motion to **adopt the Report of the Platform Committee (Exhibit 1) as amended** passed by voice vote.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **adjourn** was seconded by Karyn Thompson.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 10:10 p.m. without objection.

Andrew Martin Kolstee
Secretary of the Platform Committee

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REPORT OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK FOR THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

All members unless otherwise specified were appointed at the State Committee meeting of June 4, 2023. Daniel Castello was elected Chair of the Platform Committee and Andrew Kolstee was appointed Secretary of the Platform Committee by the committee on August 10, 2023. Charles Roggen joined the committee on January 25, 2024.

Daniel Castello, Chair
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary
Paul Grindle
Christopher Olenski
Richard Purtell
Michael Rebmann
Charles Roggen
Robert Schuon
Blay Tarnoff
Karyn Thompson

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

The following is a list of former members of the Platform Committee.

Justin Carman (resigned February 20, 2024)
Jennifer O'Connor (resigned September 21, 2023)
Keith Redhead (resigned August 7, 2024)

MEETINGS OF THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Platform Committee were held on the following dates. All minutes are available to review at LPedia [here](#) along with other information regarding the LPNY Platform Committee.

August 10, 2023	January 25, 2024
August 24, 2023	February 15, 2024
September 14, 2023	February 20, 2024
September 21, 2023	April 15, 2024
October 2, 2023	May 16, 2024
October 26, 2023	June 5, 2024
November 13, 2023	July 1, 2024
December 6, 2023	July 18, 2024
January 3, 2024	July 24, 2024
January 18, 2024	August 7, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The platform of the Libertarian Party of New York, a general platform adopted in 2019 to replace the specific platform adopted in 1983, was amended once. There was general consensus amongst most members of the State Committee to opt for a platform that covers general topics as opposed to specific issues. The platform was reexamined and essentially rewritten to follow a flow from the preamble, to individuals rights (section 1), the rights regarding interaction amongst multiple individuals (section 2), principles associated to defending rights (section 3), the universality of rights (section 4), and concluding with preserving liberty (section 5). Numbers indicated as [3] in appearing before struck out text in the original platform are paragraph numbers after the preamble, since the current platform is not numbered.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

On September 14, 2023, the Platform Committee passed the following:

WHEREAS limiting the Libertarian platform to only those positions that are clearly dictated by the libertarian philosophy showcases the difference between Libertarian and other political parties, declaring we are philosophically grounded and can therefore be trusted not to drift into conflicting or opposite positions over time;

WHEREAS failing to anchor platforms in philosophy breeds widespread disdain of political parties, as exemplified by the ubiquitous complaint that "I didn't leave the X Party, it left me";

WHEREAS taking positions that other libertarians may disagree with alienates and may chase away potential members, who may in every way be perfect libertarians, as well as candidates and party officials who would otherwise be of great value to our cause;

WHEREAS deciding and declaring our intent to impose morally questionable force on everybody opens us to highly credible accusations of hypocrisy for violation of the non-aggression principle;

WHEREAS although political parties regularly decide and impose morally questionable force on everyone in their regular course of business, the traditional libertarian position has been to let the courts fill in the ambiguities and marginal cases; and

WHEREAS if we as a party are going to advocate imposing morality on people, it should be only such morality as we know and understand to be absolute and unquestionable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that this Platform Committee shall not propose any amendment that does not logically and unambiguously derive from the libertarian principle of self ownership.

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PROPOSAL 1: Amend preamble.

[old preamble] ~~WE THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK~~

~~Recognize that all people, being created equal, are endowed with unalienable rights, among these are the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. We recognize that if governments must exist at all, their only just purpose is to secure these rights for individuals.~~

~~While we defer to the national party on issues of national interest, and we defer to our candidates to offer specific policy proposals, we do so only so far as they do not conflict with the following principles:~~

[new preamble] A just and prosperous society is rooted in the recognition of the inherent, unalienable rights of individuals to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments are instituted to safeguard these rights, deriving their legitimacy solely from the explicit consent of the governed. However, we acknowledge that in practice, governments often evolve into the primary threat to these fundamental rights. To ensure a government that remains true to its purpose, we steadfastly uphold the following principles to keep it accountable.

PROPOSAL 2. Add a new plank, as an introduction to rights specific to individuals.

1. **Individual Sovereignty.** Human beings have rights by virtue of their capacity to understand and respect the rights of others. As such, each individual possesses the unalienable right of self-ownership, and thus autonomy over their life, liberty, and property. Specifically:

PROPOSAL 3. Amend existing plank.

[4] ~~The Right to Self-Ownership and Personal Autonomy—Individuals have the right to do with their own bodies whatever they please.~~

1.1. **Autonomy of the Mind and Body.** Each individual has exclusive authority over their own mind and body.

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PROPOSAL 4. Amend existing plank.

~~[3] **The Right of Conscience**—Individuals have the right to live their lives in accordance with their own values and sense of right and wrong, and, except for rare cases of abuse or neglect, the right to raise and educate their children as they see fit.~~

1.2. **Freedom of Conscience.** Individuals are free to hold beliefs according to their own moral and ethical convictions, without persecution.

PROPOSAL 5. Amend existing plank.

~~[8] **The Right to Decide**—Individuals and families have a right to decide for themselves all issues regarding their health, wealth, and safety.~~

1.3. **Self-Determination.** Individuals have the authority to decide matters including, but not limited to, their health, education, financial well-being, and self-defense.

PROPOSAL 6. Amend existing plank.

~~[5] **The Right to Personal Property**—Individuals have the right to their own property, and to keep, to use, and to dispose of that property however they see fit.~~

1.4. **Personal Property.** Individuals have the right to acquire, own, utilize, and dispose of assets, as these are the outcomes of human dedication through the investment of time and effort.

PROPOSAL 7. Amend existing plank.

~~[2] **The Right of Free Expression**—Individuals have the right to express themselves peacefully in whatever form they choose, even if that expression is seen by some as profane or offensive.~~

1.5. **Open Expression.** Ideas, though they may challenge or offend, are distinct from acts of violence. Every individual is free to communicate, articulate, share, or otherwise assert their ideas and beliefs, and to expose themselves or refrain from exposing themselves to the freely expressed ideas of others.

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PROPOSAL 8. Amend existing plank.

~~[6] **The Right to Personal Privacy**— Individuals have the right to live free of government intrusion or surveillance into their movements, communications, health, or personal affairs.~~

1.6. **Personal Privacy.** Individuals have the right to manage and protect their personal information, choices, and activities, including deciding the extent to which they share this information with others.

PROPOSAL 9. Add a new plank.

2. **Interaction and Collaboration.** Every individual inherently holds the unalienable right to freely engage or not with others. Specifically:

PROPOSAL 10. Amend existing plank.

~~[1] **The Right to Free Association**— Individuals have the right to associate or not associate with one another on the terms of their own choosing, and without interference from third parties. Nor should one lose their individual rights should they choose to band together collectively.~~

2.1. **Free Association.** Every individual has the right to interact, associate, and form connections with other individuals, as well as the liberty to create, join, and participate in associations, organizations, and groups of their choosing.

PROPOSAL 11. Add a new plank.

2.2. **Peaceful Assembly.** Individuals have the right to gather peacefully with others for any purpose, whether social, recreational, cultural, political, or otherwise.

PROPOSAL 12. Add a new plank.

2.3. **Voluntary Agreements and Free Exchange.** Individuals have the right to engage in voluntary agreements, contracts, organizations, groups, and any other free exchanges with others, including the right to trade goods, services, and their time and labor. This includes the freedom to negotiate, accept, or reject terms, ensuring all agreements are transparent and made with informed consent.

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PROPOSAL 13. Add a new plank.

3. Defense of Rights. The most basic implication of a right is that it may be defended. Individuals may determine the manner of their defense and may act individually, in groups, or authorize others to act on their behalf. The preservation and defense of individual rights is paramount to liberty.

PROPOSAL 14. Add a new plank.

3.1. Defensive Response. Individuals have the right to use reasonable and necessary force, including the use of weapons, to protect themselves, others, and property, and therefore have the right to keep and bear any arms.

PROPOSAL 15. Add a new plank.

3.2. Immediate Defensive Action. The right of defensive response protects the need for immediate action in situations where rights are under direct and imminent threat, enabling individuals to act independently without external approval.

PROPOSAL 16. Add a new plank.

3.3. Assistance in Defense. Individuals may allow others to aid in their defense or decline assistance. Those who provide assistance have no more right to use force than those requesting it and carry the same responsibilities. Furthermore, those delegated the authority to assist shall not be granted immunity and must be held accountable for their actions to the same extent as anyone else.

PROPOSAL 17. Add a new plank.

3.4. Peaceful Resolution in Defense of Rights. Recognizing that the foundation of a free society includes the potential use of force for defending rights, a civilized society provides peaceful means to achieve resolutions. Individuals and groups should seek peaceful means for resolving disputes, including but not limited to mediation, arbitration, negotiation, and legal recourse, including a fair trial and due process.

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PROPOSAL 18. Add a new plank.

4. **Universality of Rights.** Human rights are the same for every man, woman, and child, however there are specific provisions for those unable to exercise them independently.

PROPOSAL 19. Add a new plank.

4.1. **Parental Authority.** A child's parents have the sole authority to exercise the child's rights on the child's behalf in the child's best interests, which authority may only be abrogated if a parent acts unquestionably against the child's interest, beyond a reasonable doubt.

PROPOSAL 20. Add a new plank.

4.2. **Rights Held in Trust.** For adults who are organically incapable of informed consent, responsible adults may be appointed to exercise their rights on their behalf in their best interests, which appointment may be changed at any time if it is in the adult's best interest to do so.

PROPOSAL 21. Add a new plank.

4.3. **Emancipation.** Individuals whose rights are being exercised by another may be emancipated at any time they become capable of informed consent.

PROPOSAL 22. Amend existing plank.

~~[conclusion] The Purpose of the State is to secure these above rights to all persons, all the time recognizing that it is a servant of the people and never its master.~~

5. **Preserving Liberty.** Government will inevitably grow more tyrannical if left unchecked. It is essential for citizens to be vigilant in defense of their freedom and sovereignty. Therefore, it is the responsibility of citizens to actively restrain the government, its powers, and its agents from ~~perverting~~ **subverting** the rights of the people.

PROPOSAL 23. Strike existing plank.

~~[7] **The Right to Freedom of Personal Action**—Individuals have the right be free to live and do as they please, so long as they respect the rights of others to do the same.~~

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PROPOSED CLEAN TEXT

The following is the proposed platform as recommended by the Platform Committee.

A just and prosperous society is rooted in the recognition of the inherent, unalienable rights of individuals to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments are instituted to safeguard these rights, deriving their legitimacy solely from the explicit consent of the governed. However, we acknowledge that in practice, governments often evolve into the primary threat to these fundamental rights. To ensure a government that remains true to its purpose, we steadfastly uphold the following principles to keep it accountable.

1. **Individual Sovereignty.** Human beings have rights by virtue of their capacity to understand and respect the rights of others. As such, each individual possesses the unalienable right of self-ownership, and thus autonomy over their life, liberty, and property. Specifically:

1.1. **Autonomy of the Mind and Body.** Each individual has exclusive authority over their own mind and body.

1.2. **Freedom of Conscience.** Individuals are free to hold beliefs according to their own moral and ethical convictions, without persecution.

1.3. **Self-Determination.** Individuals have the authority to decide matters including, but not limited to, their health, education, financial well-being, and self-defense.

1.4. **Personal Property.** Individuals have the right to acquire, own, utilize, and dispose of assets, as these are the outcomes of human dedication through the investment of time and effort.

1.5. **Open Expression.** Ideas, though they may challenge or offend, are distinct from acts of violence. Every individual is free to communicate, articulate, share, or otherwise assert their ideas and beliefs, and to expose themselves or refrain from exposing themselves to the freely expressed ideas of others.

1.6. **Personal Privacy.** Individuals have the right to manage and protect their personal information, choices, and activities, including deciding the extent to which they share this information with others.

2. **Interaction and Collaboration.** Every individual inherently holds the unalienable right to freely engage or not with others. Specifically:

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2.1. **Free Association.** Every individual has the right to interact, associate, and form connections with other individuals, as well as the liberty to create, join, and participate in associations, organizations, and groups of their choosing.

2.2. **Peaceful Assembly.** Individuals have the right to gather peacefully with others for any purpose, whether social, recreational, cultural, political, or otherwise.

2.3. **Voluntary Agreements and Free Exchange.** Individuals have the right to engage in voluntary agreements, contracts, organizations, groups, and any other free exchanges with others, including the right to trade goods, services, and their time and labor. This includes the freedom to negotiate, accept, or reject terms, ensuring all agreements are transparent and made with informed consent.

3. **Defense of Rights.** The most basic implication of a right is that it may be defended. Individuals may determine the manner of their defense and may act individually, in groups, or authorize others to act on their behalf. The preservation and defense of individual rights is paramount to liberty.

3.1. **Defensive Response.** Individuals have the right to use reasonable and necessary force, including the use of weapons, to protect themselves, others, and property, and therefore have the right to keep and bear any arms.

3.2. **Immediate Defensive Action.** The right of defensive response protects the need for immediate action in situations where rights are under direct and imminent threat, enabling individuals to act independently without external approval.

3.3. **Assistance in Defense.** Individuals may allow others to aid in their defense or decline assistance. Those who provide assistance have no more right to use force than those requesting it and carry the same responsibilities. Furthermore, those delegated the authority to assist shall not be granted immunity and must be held accountable for their actions to the same extent as anyone else.

3.4. **Peaceful Resolution in Defense of Rights.** Recognizing that the foundation of a free society includes the potential use of force for defending rights, a civilized society provides peaceful means to achieve resolutions. Individuals and groups should seek peaceful means for resolving disputes, including but not limited to mediation, arbitration, negotiation, and legal recourse, including a fair trial and due process.

4. **Universality of Rights.** Human rights are the same for every man, woman, and child, however there are specific provisions for those unable to exercise them independently.

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4.1. **Parental Authority.** A child's parents have the sole authority to exercise the child's rights on the child's behalf in the child's best interests, which authority may only be abrogated if a parent acts unquestionably against the child's interest, beyond a reasonable doubt.

4.2. **Rights Held in Trust.** For adults who are organically incapable of informed consent, responsible adults may be appointed to exercise their rights on their behalf in their best interests, which appointment may be changed at any time if it is in the adult's best interest to do so.

4.3. **Emancipation.** Individuals whose rights are being exercised by another may be emancipated at any time they become capable of informed consent.

5. **Preserving Liberty.** Government will inevitably grow more tyrannical if left unchecked. It is essential for citizens to be vigilant in defense of their freedom and sovereignty. Therefore, it is the responsibility of citizens to actively restrain the government, its powers, and its agents from perverting the rights of the people.